Governments. In order to assist the state Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labourer which is equally shared by Central and State Government.

Under the directions of Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) was constituted to review and monitor the Implementation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Special Group has held 16 meetings in different regions.

As per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the National Human Rights Commission is also monitoring the implementation of the Act and holding Workshops in different States.

Specific policy intervention programme

2833. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently launched/proposes to launch a specific policy intervention programme for districts with chronic unemployment and industrial under-development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTRIDITYA MADHARAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No scheme for industrial development, district-wise, has been launched or proposed to be launched. The Government of India is implementing package of incentives for the special category States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and for the States of the North East including Sikkim which help in enhancing industrial activities and generating more employment in these States. The Government has also launched a number of other schemes such as Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), Transport Subsidy scheme, Industrial Park Scheme etc. to provide financial assistance/concessions to the industries in other States as well. Besides, various other Departments of the Government of India are also implementing a number of schemes for generating employment and development of backward areas such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman, Backward Regions Grant Fund etc.

Workers covered under E.S.I. and Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana

2834. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees/workers covered under Employees Insurance Act, 1948 as on 31.03.2008;

(b) the number of employees/workers enjoyed benefits of E.S.I. during 2005-06 to 2007-08 (year-wise); and